



CALYPSO CHAPTER
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Calypso Companion

September 25, 2013, Vol. 22.4

Newsletter yearly subscription: Members -- \$6, Non-members--\$8

Editor:

President: Derek Antonelli antonelli8@frontier.com

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Karen Williams karenjwilliams@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Janet Benoit e-mail: jebenoit@sisna.com

mail: P.O. Box 331, Careywood, ID 83809

phone: (208) 683-2407

The Calypso Chapter of the Idaho Native Plant Society meets on the first Wednesday of March, April, May and October. The Chapter schedules field trips during the Spring, Summer, and Fall. The Calypso Chapter of the INPS was founded in 1991. We continue our efforts in promoting interest in native plants and native plant communities, collecting and sharing information on all phases of botany concerning this flora. Membership is open to all interested in the native plant community.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is **Wednesday, October 2, 2013**, at 7:00 p.m. at the **Idaho Fish and Game Building** at 2885 W Kathleen, Coeur d'Alene, directly across from US Forest Service Nursery on the west end of Kathleen near Atlas Road

Agenda

Agenda for the meeting:

Call to order

Agenda additions or corrections

Approval of minutes as submitted in the Calypso Companion

Treasurer's report/membership status

Old Business

Field Trip Reports

Rare Plant Conference
North Idaho Rare Plant Working Group
INPS Survey
INPS photo contest
New Business
Field trips 2014
Joint Calypso/Audubon field trip for May 2014

COME AND BRING A FRIEND!!

Meeting Notes of May 22, 2013

Fourteen members and guests attended the May meeting, looking forward to the presentation on the Rose Family. Treasurer Janet Benoit reported a balance of an estimated \$1,000 dollars in the Calypso bank account. The 2013 field trip schedule was discussed with the following updates:

June 2, 2013-Q'emiln Park and potluck canceled due to inclement weather.

June 8, 2013-Shepherd Lake.

June 22-24-INPS annual meeting in Boise.

July (date to be announced) -Coal Creek on CDA River. Meet 8am, CDA Walgreens.

August 10, 2013 -Revette Lake above Murray, Idaho. Meet 8am, CDA Walgreens.

In Other News

President Derek Antonelli invited those interested to join in a field trip to the Kootenai Wildlife Refuge on July 6, 2013. The trip will be focused on searching for rare wetland plants in the area. He also reported the Master Naturalists would be doing rare plant surveys in our northern region for those wishing to participate. INPS will be holding election of officers with Lamar Orton running for President. Refer to online Sage Notes for more on election details. Articles for the Sage Notes newsletter are currently being requested with the deadline of August 1. Laura Asbell thought our group should look into the "meetup.com group to as a potential outreach activity.

For the remainder of the meeting Derek Antonelli gave a computer assisted presentation of the Rose Family and also brought many specimens to show the group. Black cap, nootka rose, spirea, cherry, thimbleberry, mountain ash,

hawthorn, black raspberry, service berry, ocean spray, and ninebark are a few of the many plants included in the diverse and prolific rose family.

Derek announced he had DVD copies available of a north Idaho plant guide he and colleagues have compiled.

Respectfully Submitted,
Karen Williams, Secretary

Other Meetings of interest

North Idaho Mycological Association -- Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month in March, April, May, June, September, October and November. Visit their website for details.

Spokane Chapter Washington Native Plant Society --meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the SIERR Building, 850 E. Spokane Falls Blvd, Ste. 100, in Spokane. They also often meet for dinner before the meetings at 5:30 pm at the Bangkok Thai, 1003 E. Trent. This is about a block from the SIERR building. They don't meet in the summer, June through August, and in December.

Featured Plant: Grouseberry-Whortleberry; *Vaccinium scoparium* **HEATH** **FAMILY-ERICACEAE**

General: Short shrub with many smooth-barked branches, rooting when touching soil and often forming dense stands. Green twigs are strongly angled.

Leaves: Deciduous, oval, 1/2–3/4 in., finely toothed and sharp pointed tip. Thin and light green.

Flowers: Solitary pink flowers are urn-shaped, hanging from bases of lowest leaves on young shoots.

Fruits: Red berries about 1/4 in. diameter are edible, but more often eaten by birds and other animals. Grows in high-elevation forests.

Ecology: Common in dry to moist open coniferous forests (most often lodgepole pine), often forming a dense groundcover near timberline. The plant is common from BC and Alberta to Colorado.

Notes: Grouseberry is a good name for this species, as grouse eat all parts of the plant. Southern Interior native people gathered the berries with a salmon backbone or wooden comb because they were so small. Freezing makes the berries sweeter. So they were traditionally gathered after the first frost. The species name *Scoparium* means broom and refers to the broom-like clustering of stems.

